MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Funds allocated to Government of Madhya Pradesh for development of National Highways during 1990–91 and 1991–92 are as follows:

Year	*Rs. in crores*
1990–91	18.50
1991–92	19.00 (provisional)

(b) All the National Highways in Madhya Pradesh, viz. National Highways No. 3,6,7,12,16,25,26,27 and 43, having a combined length of 2,946 kms within the State, were covered by the above referred allocations.

(c) National Highways works in Madhya Pradesh are entrusted to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh who act as agents of the Government of India to get the National Highways works executed.

Cases Involving Violation of Revenue Laws

4902. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases involving violation of various revenue laws detected by the informers in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in which the violation of revenue laws was established; and

(c) the number of informers who have been awarded cash prizes on this account and the criteria for payment of reward in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Opening of New Textile Mills under NTC

4903. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new textile mills under the National Textile Corporation to meet the present requirement of cloth;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to include the tribal areas at Madhya Pradesh in the programme; and

(d) if so, the areas in which textile mills are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Questions do not arise.

Export of Diamonds and Gold Jewellery and Precious Stones

4904. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been stagnation in the export of diamonds, gold jewellery, precious and semi-precious stones and pearls,during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the targets fixed for export of these items item-wise and year-wise and the extent to which these were achieved during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the exports of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. The exports of gems and jewellery during the last three years are given below:

	(Rs. in Crores)
1988–89	4581
1989–90	5479
1990–91	5360

(Source: Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council)

(b) There was a decline in exports of gem and jewellery only during 1990–91 as compared to 1989–90 due to recessionary trends prevailing in major importing countries like USA and Japan and lower utilisation of diamonds in studded jewellery all over the world.

(c) Item–wise and year–wise export targets and performance of gems and jewellery for the last three years are as under:

Sl. No.		1990-91		1989-90		1988-89	
		Target	Performance	Target	Performance	Target	Performance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Diamond	5000	4738	5000	4972	3740	4238
2.	Coloured Gemstones	250	208	175	195	125	147
4.	Gold Jewellery	650	364	275	283	200	171
5.	Others	50	50	50	29	39	25
	Total=	5950	5360	5500	5479	4104	4581

(d) Market promotion measures abroad and product development efforts to make Indian gem and jewellery products competitive in world markets have helped in increasing exports and these measures are proposed to be continued and intensified, wherever required.

Irregular Foreign Exchange Transactions by Foreign Missionaries

4905. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign missionaries have been apprehended during the current year for their involvement in irregular foreign exchange transactions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade and Economic Cooperation with ASEAN

4906 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is working in close co-operation with Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia Pacific Run trade blocks for improving its trading and economic co-operation with these countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). The Government has expressed interest in becoming a sectoral dialogue partner with ASEAN in four fields viz. trade, tourism human resource development and science and technology.

Government has also flagged its interest in having association with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Grouping.

Financial Assistance to Bihar

4907. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to given more financial assistance to Bihar to enable it to overcome its difficult economic situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c). Usual flow of funds on account of share in Central Taxes, Central assistance for State Plan schemes, Small Savings loan, Revenue Deficit grant, Centre's contribution to State Calamity Relief Fund and Centrally sponsored schemes is being made to the State. Whenever necessary, some advance releases of State's entitlements will also be made to help the State tide over their temporary Ways and Means difficulties. No other type of assistance is proposed to be given to the State during the current financial years.

Alleged Fraud in UCO Bank, Chandigarh

4908. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: